

Early Learning Council Child Care & Education Committee

Report: April 2018

Committee Charge:

The Child Care and Education Committee (CCEC) is chartered to advise the ELC on the issues, challenges, successes and priorities related to affordable, quality child care and early education programs in Oregon, to provide outreach and act as a liaison between citizens and the ELC through community forums and surveys to engage parents, early care and education providers and union representatives and to prioritize outcome based policies for child care and early education issues related to quality, affordability and system coordination.

Committee Membership:

Bobbie Weber, Chair; Pam Hester; Michelle Gury McKenzie; Sabrina Escobedo; Tim Rusk; Kamala Wymore; Sue Norton; Abby Bush; Leslee Barnes; Elvyss Argueta; Donna Schnitker

Report:

The Child Care & Education Committee met virtually on April 12th to discuss the results of the ELD Parent Survey as well as an update on the ongoing Early Learning Council Strategic Planning process and ways the committee can support parent and provider engagement.

Key Issues Discussed & Uncovered:

CCEC Members Participating: Bobbie Weber (Chair), Michelle Gury McKenzie, Tim Rusk, Kamala Wymore, Sue Norton, Abby Bush, and Pam Hester

Staff Participating: Dawn Woods, Alyssa Chatterjee, Crys Plattner

Review of Parent Survey Results

The Committee received the results of the Parent Survey and Dawn Woods provided an overview of the results. The survey asked seven questions to better understand the areas that parents feel are important and what they want to know more about when using child care for their children.

The survey link was sent out broadly through various committee and partner parent distribution lists and completed by 685 parents. Concerns from CCEC members was the outreach of the survey may not represent the community as a whole as we are not able to identify the demographics of who filled out the survey. Bobbie Weber referred to this survey as a sample of convenience, meaning the survey was done voluntarily without gathering demographic information on the participants.

Several themes did emerge around parents' expectations that their children are safe and the program exceeds the Office of Child Care's requirements. Parents expect the program has enough people to meet the needs of all children in care and that staff is attentive to their child's needs. It is also important that people caring for their child to be educated on a range of topics and the person participates in ongoing training.



Strategic Planning Update

The Committee received an update from Alyssa Chatterjee on the current state of the Council's Strategic Planning process. This included an overview of the presenters that participated in both the Human Services and Early Care & Education sectors during the March meetings, as well as some themes and areas for additional information that popped up. The Committee also heard an overview of the draft April Council invitations that were being coordinated. The Committee will have a chance to review the draft debrief takeaways from the Council at their May meeting. This will include the notes provided by the Council, as well as the high-level themes that are beginning to emerge.

Planning for Parent Engagement

In addition to the Early Learning Council meetings focused on sector engagement, the Council is also looking to Committees and partners to both provide feedback and, if possible, assist in additional engagement opportunities throughout the process. In particular, the Council is working to ensure that parent and provider voice is well represented as their new strategic plan is being developed. Committee members discussed what they would need as partners to help support the Council and Division in convening community engagement sessions with parents and providers. This included:

- Clearly articulated goals for the engagement session
- Consistent questions for use throughout all engagement sessions
- Estimated time to budget for engagements (i.e. 90 minutes)

Tim Rusk, a member of CCEC as well as OARN, suggested that partners could be responsible for providing on-site technical assistance in recording engagements as well as provide the facilitation for engagements. Ideally food and on-site child care would be provided by partners to encourage parent and family participation as well.

As a next step, Alyssa will share finalized community engagement questions with Tim to share with OARN to begin planning opportunities for community participation.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan Review

The Committee received an overview of the CCDF State Plan. Dawn Woods shared the purpose of the State Plan is to serve as Oregon's application for the funds, rather than a plan of how to use funds in the future. The State Plan is used by the Federal Office of Child Care to monitor states to ensure the policies and practices described in the State Plan are being implemented in the State. As Oregon makes policy decisions, an amendment to the State Plan must be submitted to reflect change. The Committee was given several example where ongoing policy discussion could occur to ensure the State Plan reflects the goals Oregon has for children and families using child care. The examples included updates to subsidy policies for education to be considered eligible for subsidies, along with strategies the state is using to increase the supply and improve the quality of child care. Examples of professional development supports were also shared in the areas of pre-service training requirements and connecting to post-secondary education. Bobbie Weber, the Chair of the committee discussed with the Committee the potential of using the State Plan to identify areas of policy discussions this Committee may want to engage in moving forward. Further discussions need to occur as to how this might be considered in the charge of the Committee.

Staffed by:

Dawn Woods, Child Care Director, ELD

Crys Plattner, Executive Support to the Office of Child Care

EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

Kate Brown, Governor

